

Arkansas

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

JENNIFER COLLINS MAY 28, 2021 04:30PM

Big Wins

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 08, 2021 01:43AM

- a. Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment's Enterprise Services facilitated the transition of more than 400 staff to remote work status, working across Human Resources and Information Technology programs that had not yet been fully merged after State Transformation.
- b. Enterprise Services wrote the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Provisional COVID-19 Enforcement Policy, responded to all multi-media and trade organization inquiries regarding COVID-19 response and policies, and tracked all requests for regulatory relief related to COVID-19 for the department.
- c. Enterprise Services brought all responses to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects under one roof, resulting in a 129 percent increase over the previous year. (Before this change, NEPA requests were handled throughout the agency by individual media offices.)
- d. Assisted the state economic development agency with projects that have potential investments of more than \$2 billion.
- e. Authorized \$178 million in tax credits for recycling equipment.
- f. Continued developing the Natural State Environmental Program (NStEP), to promote voluntary environmental stewardship in Arkansas.

Challenges

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Enterprise Services is currently rebuilding its SBEAP, effectively from scratch. Two of our four staff members joined Enterprise Services in the past year; a third staff member joined us at the end of January 2021. This new member will be the primary lead for our SBEAP program. The fourth member works exclusively on the Recycling Tax Credit program.

2021 / 2022 Excitement & Priorities

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For the 2021 year, Enterprise Services will prioritize the development of a multi-media SBEAP with knowledge and resources regarding agency programs, processes, and regulations. This includes creating the program infrastructure, as well as guidance materials that can be distributed to small businesses requesting assistance.

Our priority for the 2022 year is to set the SBEAP program into motion and begin conducting more outreach and training for small businesses. Additionally, the NStEP program will be further refined and developed before commencing outreach and member recruitment.

Help Wanted

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The Arkansas SBEAP program looks to the National SBEAP for guidance and examples of how to run certain aspects of the program. The National SBEAP website is frequently

reviewed for current news and updates. Enterprise Services also utilizes the National SBEAP website for compliance information and resources to use internally, as well as for distribution to small businesses.

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Arkansas' SBEAP program is housed in the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment's Enterprise Services section. We currently have one full time staff member who is the primary lead for the SBEAP program and fills the position of Small Business Liaison.

Structure and Stats (Where are you housed? and How many Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)?)
